

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Currently amended)** A shell (12;14) for an ankle brace (10), the shell being semi-rigid and having an inner surface shaped to conform to a side surface of a person's leg (18) on one side of the person's leg between an upper extent (56;62) above the person's ankle bone (26;30) on said one side of the person's leg and a lower extent (40;50) below the person's ankle bone on said one side of the person's leg but above the base of the heel (22), and between a forward extent (32,36;42,46) towards the front of the person's leg and a rearward extent (34,38;44,48) towards the rear of the person's leg, the shell having a registration portion (24;28) shaped to register the shell with respect to the person's ankle bone on said one side of the person's leg, the registration portion having portions for engaging with the protruding part of the person's ankle bone from below, from in front of, from behind and from above the person's ankle bone on said one side of the person's leg for registering the shell in the directions of the four extents with respect to the person's ankle bone, the shell being arranged so that, when it is so registered with the person's ankle bone, the lower extent of the semi-rigid shell is above the base of the person's heel devoid of any feature for extending beneath the person's heel for non-adjustably registering the shell vertically with respect to the person's leg, and the shell being bifurcated by a slot (55;60) extending from the upper extent towards the registration portion.
2. **(Original)** A shell as claimed in claim 1, wherein the width of the slot above the registration portion is at least 5 mm.
3. **(Previously presented)** A shell as claimed in claim 1, wherein the width of the slot above the registration portion is at most 30 mm.
4. **(Currently amended)** A shell as claimed in claim 1, wherein the registration portion is provided by a hole (24;28) for snugly receiving the protruding part of the ankle bone on said one side of the person's leg.
5. **(Original)** A shell as claimed in claim 4, wherein the slot opens into the hole.
6. **(Original)** A shell as claimed in claim 4, wherein the slot stops short of the hole.
7. **(Currently amended)** A shell as claimed in claim 1, wherein the registration portion is provided by a recess in the inner surface of the shell for receiving and covering the protruding part of the ankle bone on said one side of the person's leg.

8. **(Cancelled)**

9. **(Original)** A shell as claimed in claim 7, wherein the slot extends as far as the recess.

10. **(Original)** A shell as claimed in claim 7, wherein the slot extends at least partly into the recess.

11. **(Previously presented)** A shell as claimed in claim 1, wherein the registration portion has a non-circular outline.

12. **(Previously presented)** A shell as claimed in claim 1, wherein the shell has a generally uniform thickness.

13. **(Previously presented)** A shell as claimed in claim 1, in combination with means (16,20) for adjustably strapping the shell to the person's leg.

14. **(Cancelled)**

15. **(Previously presented)** A shell as claimed in claim 1, wherein the forward extent of the shell has a projecting region (52) for covering the person's anterior talofibular ligament.

16. **(Currently amended)** A shell as claimed in claim 15, wherein the projecting region projects by a maximum distance (D) of about 60 mm \pm 10 mm from the tip (54) of the person's ankle bone (30) on said one side of the person's leg.

17. **(Currently amended)** An ankle brace (10) comprising a medial shell (12), the medial shell being semi-rigid and having an inner surface shaped to conform to the medial side surface of a person's leg on the medial side of the person's leg between an upper extent (56) above the person's ankle bone (26) on the medial side of the person's leg and a lower extent (40) below the person's ankle bone on the medial side of the person's leg but above the base of the heel (22), and between a forward extent (32,36) towards the front of the person's leg and a rearward extent (34,38) towards the rear of the person's leg, a lateral shell (14), the lateral shell being semi-rigid and having an inner surface shaped to conform to the lateral side surface of the person's leg on the lateral side of the person's leg between an upper extent (62) above the person's ankle bone (30) on the lateral side of the person's leg and a lower extent (50) below the person's ankle bone on the lateral side of the person's leg but above the base of the heel (22), and between a forward extent (42,46) towards the front of the person's leg and a rearward extent (44,48) towards the rear of the person's leg, and means (16,20) for adjustably strapping the shells to the person's leg, each shell having a respective registration portion (24;28) shaped to register that shell with respect to the person's ankle bone on the respective side of the person's leg, each registration portion having portions for engaging with

the protruding part of the person's ankle bone on the respective side of the person's leg from below, from in front of, from behind and from above the person's ankle bone for registering the shell in the directions of the four extents with respect to the person's ankle bone, each shell being arranged so that, when it is so registered with the person's ankle bone, the lower extent of the semi-rigid shell is above the base of the person's heel devoid of any feature for extending beneath the person's heel for non-adjustably registering the shell vertically with respect to the person's leg, and each shell being bifurcated by a respective slot (55;60) extending from the respective upper extent towards the respective registration portion.

18. **(Original)** An ankle brace as claimed in claim 17, wherein the strapping means includes an adjustable strap (20) for extending under the person's heel (22) between the lower extents of the shells.

19. **(Previously presented)** A shell as claimed in claim 1 in combination with a sock, shoe or boot, the shell being fitted to the sock, shoe or boot.

20. **(Cancelled)**

21. **(Currently amended)** A shell (12;14) for an ankle brace (10), the shell being semi-rigid and having an inner surface shaped to conform to a side surface of a person's leg (18) on one side of the person's leg between an upper extent (56;62) above the person's ankle bone (26;30) on said side of the person's leg and a lower extent (40;50) below the person's ankle bone on said side of the person's leg but above the base of the heel (22), and between a forward extent (32,36;42,46) towards the front of the person's leg and a rearward extent (34,38;44,48) towards the rear of the person's leg, the shell having a registration portion (24;28) shaped to register the shell with respect to the person's ankle bone on said side of the person's leg, the registration portion having portions for engaging with the protruding part of the person's ankle bone on said side of the person's leg from below, from in front of, from behind and from above the person's ankle bone for registering the shell in the directions of the four extents with respect to the person's ankle bone, the shell being arranged so that, when it is so registered with the person's ankle bone, the lower extent of the semi-rigid shell is above the base of the person's heel devoid of any feature for extending beneath the person's heel for non-adjustably registering the shell vertically with respect to the person's leg, and the forward extent of the shell having a projecting region (52) for covering the person's anterior talofibular ligament.

22. **(Currently amended)** A shell as claimed in claim 21, wherein the projecting region projects by a maximum distance (D) of about 60 mm \pm 10 mm from the tip (54) of the person's ankle bone (30) on one side of the person's leg.